

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6353

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, XF, SF, NEH, CHGTW

SUBJECT: GOI POLICY ON PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES IN INDIA -- TABLE TENNIS

REF: NEW DELHI 8816 (NOTAL)

1. WE REPORTED IN THE REFTEL AN INDIAN DECISION NOT TO ALLOW
ATTENDANCE AT ANY GENERAL, NON-UN INTERNATIONAL MEETING OR
CONFERENCE IN INDIA BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM TAIWAN, ISRAEL,
SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND PORTUGAL.

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INDIA EXCLUDED DELEGATES

FROM TAIWAN FROM THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES ON OCTOBER AND ISRAELI AND SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATES FROM THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION IN DECEMBER. NOW IT HAS EXCLUDED ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION (ITTF) CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN CALCUTTA FEBRUARY 6.

2. THE GOI IS TELLING THE PRESS THAT IT WAS THE INDIAN TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION WHICH DECIDED TO EXCLUDE ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, IT ADMITS THAT THE DECISION WAS "FULLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA." PRAFULLA KANTI GHOSH, MINISTER OF SPORTS IN THE CONGRESS PARTY GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL, ANNOUNCED THE EXCLUSION IN HIS CAPACITY AS A MEMBER OF THE TOURNAMENT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.

3. WEST GERMAN CONSULTATIONS WITH MEA THIS WEEK REFLECTED STRONG CONCERN VOICED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY (EAST) TRIVEDI THAT NOTHING OCCUR IN CONNECTION WITH THE TOURNAMENT WHICH MIGHT LEAD THE CHINESE DELEGATION TO WITHDRAW. TRIVEDI SAID THE CHINESE HAD CONFIRMED THEY WERE COMING AND THE INDIANS SAW THIS AS A POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IN IMPORVING SINO-INIDAN RELATIONS. THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS, WHILE NOT VOICED EXPLICITLY, ALMOST CERTAINLY RELATE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL OF FIVE ARAB DELEGATIONS. (THE PRESS SPECULATES THAT THE FOUR ARAB COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING MIGHT HAVE WALKED OUT, WHICH WOULD IN TURN HAVE LED TO A CHINESE WALKOUT.)

4. BOTH THE DAIRY CONFERENCE AND THE PHYSIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE TOOK ACTION TO TRY TO PREVENT MEMBERS BEING TURNED AWAY IN THE FUTURE. THE ITTF APPARENTLY ALREADY HAS SUCH A REGULATION, BUT ACCORDING TO AN AP STORY FROM CARDIFF, ITTF PRESIDENT H. ROY EVANS SAID JANUARY 15 THAT PLANNING IS TOO FAR ADVANCED TO MOVE THE MATCH. THE ITTF HAS REPORTEDLY PROTESTED TO THE GOI. THE WEST GERMANS TELL US THAT THERE IS SOME CHANCE THE STADIUM WON'T BE READY ANYWAY.

SCHNEIDER

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